

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-11 and substitute the following new claims therefor:

✓ 12. (New) A cosmetic composition, comprising a cosmetically acceptable carrier containing:

(a) at least one fixing film-forming polymer which is a branched block copolymer comprising, as a principal monomer, at least one C₁₋₂₀ alkyl acrylate or at least one N-mono- or N,N-di(C₂₋₁₂ alkyl)(meth)acrylamide or at least one C₁₋₂₀ alkyl acrylate and at least one N-mono- or N,N-di(C₂₋₁₂ alkyl)(meth)acrylamide, and acrylic acid or methacrylic acid or acrylic acid and methacrylic acid,

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3 (b) at least one thickening agent which is a crosslinked or noncrosslinked homopolymer or copolymer based on (meth)acrylic acid, and

(c) at least one cothickening agent which is a noncellulosic thickening polymer different from thickening agent (b).

✓ 13. (New) The cosmetic composition according to claim 12, wherein the fixing film-forming polymer is a branched block copolymer comprising, as monomers, n-butyl acrylate, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid and allyl methacrylate.

✓ 14. (New) The cosmetic composition according to claim 12, wherein the concentration of fixing film-forming polymer is between 0.1 and 10% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

✓ 15. (New) The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, wherein the concentration of fixing film-forming polymer is between 1 and 5% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

✓ 16. (New) The cosmetic composition according to claim 12, wherein the thickening agent (b) is a crosslinked acrylic acid homopolymer.

17. (New) The cosmetic composition according to claim 12, wherein the thickening agent (b) is a copolymer of acrylic acid or methacrylic acid and a C₁₀₋₃₀ alkyl acrylate or methacrylate.

✓ 18. (New) The cosmetic composition according to claim 12, wherein the concentration of thickening agent (b) is between 0.1 and 3% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

✓ 19. (New) The cosmetic composition according to claim 18, wherein the concentration of thickening agent (b) is between 0.2 and 2% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

✓ 20. (New) The cosmetic composition according to claim 12, wherein the cothickening agent (c) is of natural origin.

✓ 21. (New) The cosmetic composition according to claim 20, wherein the cothickening agent (c) is guar gum, xanthan gum, scleroglucan gum, gelan gum, rhamsan gum, karaya gum, an alginate, maltodextrin, starch or its derivatives, or carob flour.

✓ 22. (New) The cosmetic composition according to claim 21, wherein the cothickening agent (c) is guar gum or xanthan gum.

23. (New) The cosmetic composition according to claim 12, wherein the concentration of the cothickening agent is between 0.05 and 2% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

24. (New) The cosmetic composition according to claim 23, wherein the concentration of the cothickening agent is between 0.1 and 1% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

25. (New) A method for the styling and fixing of hair, comprising applying to the hair a cosmetic composition comprising a cosmetically acceptable carrier containing:

A3 (a) at least one fixing film-forming polymer which is a branched block copolymer comprising, as a principal monomer, at least one C₁₋₂₀ alkyl acrylate or at least one N-mono- or N,N-di(C₂₋₁₂ alkyl)(meth)acrylamide or at least one C₁₋₂₀ alkyl acrylate and at least one N-mono- or N,N-di(C₂₋₁₂ alkyl)(meth)acrylamide, and acrylic acid or methacrylic acid or acrylic acid and methacrylic acid,

(b) at least one thickening agent which is a homopolymer or copolymer based on (meth)acrylic acid which is crosslinked or noncrosslinked, and

(c) at least one cothickening agent which is a noncellulosic thickening polymer different from thickening agent (b).--

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